

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT PARYATAN BHAWAN, TADONG, EAST SIKKIM - 737102

Memo No/55 (3211) celousca/18-19/285

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To

The C.F Cum Nodal Officer (FCA),

Department of Forest, Env and Wildlife Management,

Deorali, Gangtok Sikkim 737102.

Subject: Additional information is placed regarding "Proposal for diversion of 0.7692 ha of forest land for development of Tourist infrastructure at Saptya Kanya at Tumin Lingee Constituency in South District of Sikkim by Tourism and FeA' Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim.

Sir,

As per the letter no: 1743/FCA/FEWMD/540, Dated: 16/08/2018, please find enclosed herewith the addition information and documents regarding "proposal for diversion of 0.7692 ha of forest land for development of Tourist infrastructure at Saptya Kanya at Tumin Lingee Constituency in South District of Sikkim by Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, ir Government of Sikkim.

1) Query:

The KML/Shape file (soft and hard copy) with polygon features of proposed area for diversion and Compensatory Afforestation area.

Justification/Additional Information:

Enclosed vide flag 'A"

Query:

Justification for development of tourist infrastructure and its inescapability for locating the project in forest land for non site specific use. Als α whether alternative site have been explored, if so the reasons for their rejection in detail

Justification/Additional Information:

Lingee in Southern part of Sikkim is known for its diversity in terms of culture, ethnicity and Bio-resources. The main aim of the project being proposed here is to inculcate in the visitors the ethics of conservation of nature and natural resources including flora and fauna apart from the traditional knowledge of the communities residing there and their culture and tradition. In fact through this eco-tourism plan the motive is to help conserve the nature and natural resources and to help the local community uplift their socio-economic status.

As the area in the vicinity of proposed diversion is vertical and overhang cliff, no construction is feasible in surrounding areas. The proposed land for diversion is the only suitable location in the area which is best suited to cater the visitor and help the local people to access. Moreover the site is so selected that it has a very thin forest cover.

3) Query:

The State Government may Clarify "Gazebo" as mentioned in the purpose wise break up.

Justification/Additional Information:

Since, the area selected receives heavy rainfall, a simple eco friendly structure which is fully ventilated is proposed to serve as rain shelter apart from being a view point. The gazebo also provides the place wherefrom, the visitors may enjoy the natural beauty of nature which will propagate the impostance of nature and its beauty and encourage its conservation.

4) Query:

Items like Cafeteria may not be included in the proposal as per Eco Tourism guidelines and the same is to be located outside the proposed area for diversion.

Justification/Additional Information:

This infrastructure is not a typical cafeteria rather is a single floored structure with basic amenities, also accommodate an Interpretation Centre, keeps First Aid facilities and also forest fire fighting equipments for emergency purpose. It has been made composite and multipurpose as no other infrastructure is present in the vicinity and to reduce the number of structures to be created in the natural areas to the barest minimum. Hence the construction of the proposed structure has become a must. The structure is prepared in compliance and in tune with the objectives as laid down in the Sikkim Eco Tourism Policy 2011.

Moreover the proposed structure would help in interpreting the local culture and tradition of community, natural resources, including flora and fauna. This would intern generate local employment.

Following the guideline of Sikkim Eco Tourism Policy 2011, the structure shall be handed over to Eco tourism committee or eco development committees which shall run the infrastructure under the supervision of Eco Tourism Council whose Member Secretary is PCCF-cum-Secretary, Forest Department, and one of the member is the Chief Wildlife Warden.

5) Query: The Photographs depicting the proposed diversion area.

Justification/Additional Information:

Enclosed Vide flag "B"

Yours sincerely,

Secretar

Tourism and CAv. Department

Government of Sikkim.

C P Dhakal Secretary Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt. Govt. of Sikkim